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Thursday, 20 May 2010, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Salam	(Lebanon)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Du Xiaocong
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Okuda
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2010/213)

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10-36935 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2010/213)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Joint Special Representative for the African Union and the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Gambari to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members to the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2010/213).

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari.

I now give the floor to Mr. Gambari.

Mr. Gambari: I am very pleased and honoured to be here with the Council today to introduce the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2010/213) on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The report covers the period from 1 February to 30 April and identifies the progress made and the challenges that remain in implementing UNAMID's mandate. It addresses the political process and the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur, and discusses the progress made on the benchmarks which the Council has previously identified and approved.

As members of the Council are aware, I assumed my functions as Joint Special Representative for UNAMID on 22 January and arrived in El Fasher, the capital of Darfur, on 25 January to take up residence there. As outlined in the Secretary-General's report, Darfur has seen several positive developments since then. Notably, the Joint Chief Mediator achieved considerable progress in the Doha peace talks through the creation of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), merging members of the Sudan Liberation Movement-Revolutionary Forces (Tripoli Group) and part of the Road Map Group (Addis Ababa Group) into a single new movement under the leadership of Eltigani Seisi Mohamed Ateem, a prominent Darfurian politician who was at one time Governor of Darfur. This was followed by the signing of two Framework Agreements to Resolve the Conflict in Darfur between the Government and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the newly formed LJM on 23 February and on 18 March, respectively.

In April, the mediation team conducted a number of capacity-building workshops for the armed movements in order to strengthen their cohesion, as well as their capacity and readiness to engage in direct negotiations with the Government. UNAMID provided experts, including on ceasefire arrangements and gender issues, to support the mediation's efforts. The mediation team and UNAMID also facilitated a workshop with the LJM from 6 to 8 April on ceasefire implementation in order to enhance the common understanding of the mechanisms to be put in place, which are conducive to an effective ceasefire implementation.

Unfortunately, despite several attempts by the mediation, the parties were not able to agree on a final peace agreement by the 15 March deadline or on a ceasefire implementation protocol. On the contrary, JEM suspended its participation in the negotiations in early May in protest over alleged violations of the ceasefire agreement by the Government.

Indeed, the past weeks have been marked by violent clashes between the Government and JEM in all three states of Darfur. On 13 May, JEM launched attacks on a Government position, as well as on a convoy of commercial trucks escorted by Government forces, in the area of Muhajeria, South Darfur. On the following day, 14 May, the Government announced that, after two weeks of fighting, it had successfully dislodged JEM from Jebel Moon, its stronghold in Western Darfur. That same day, UNAMID troops confirmed that JEM had withdrawn from the area of Shangil Tobay in Northern Darfur, which it had

recently occupied from the Minnie Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Army.

UNAMID has also received reports of renewed fighting since 6 May between the Government of the Sudan and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army in the Jebel Marra area. Furthermore, tensions remain high in Southern and, most recently, also Western Darfur following recent incidences of inter-tribal fighting between the Misseriya and Nawaiba-Rizeigat tribes near Kas in Southern Darfur. These clashes have resulted in substantial civilian fatalities and the displacement of communities, and have hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In response, UNAMID has been working at all levels to improve security and protection, facilitate improved access for humanitarian agencies to the affected areas and, in the cases of inter-tribal fighting, to support the reconciliation process. I call upon all parties in Darfur to facilitate the access of UNAMID and the humanitarian community to places of recent fighting, such as Jebel Marra and Jebel Moon, so that we will be able to adequately assess and address the needs of the affected population.

In line with these efforts, I have called upon the parties to refrain from fighting and to engage each other in dialogue rather than resort to violence. I am very much of the view that the Darfur crisis can be solved not through military means, because if it could have it should have, but through negotiations and the political process. I will continue to utilize every opportunity to impress this viewpoint on the parties. I did so on the occasion I met with Abdul Wahid Mohamed al-Nur in Paris in March to discuss issues of access and security in areas under his Movement's control.

In this context, it is with grave concern that I must report that United Nations and humanitarian personnel continue to be targets of attacks and criminal acts. Indeed, the reporting period witnessed renewed attacks against UNAMID peacekeepers and cases of abduction and kidnappings. These include an attack on 18 February on a Pakistani formed police unit and, most recently, on 7 May, an attack on an Egyptian military patrol, both in South Darfur. I am saddened to report that, in these attacks, two Egyptian peacekeepers were killed, while seven Pakistani and three more Egyptian peacekeepers were seriously injured, some suffering permanent disabilities. Also in Nyala, South Darfur, four South African police officers were abducted on 11 April and held in captivity for 16 days before they were released following intensive engagement by UNAMID with all stakeholders. Furthermore, on 14 May, a UNAMID local staff member was carjacked and held for more than 24 hours before being released. Most recently, on 18 May, three staff members of the international non-governmental organization Samaritan's Purse — two Sudanese male and one female international staff members — were abducted in Abu Ajura, close to Nyala, in South Darfur.

In an attempt to thwart future recurrences of such incidents, I have given firm instructions to our troops and police contingents to respond more robustly to attacks. I have also made it clear in all my engagements that such attacks against peacekeepers constitute war crimes. Meanwhile, I continue to work closely with all relevant parties to see that the perpetrators of such cowardly acts are brought to justice promptly and that the neutrality, impartiality and inviolability of UNAMID personnel are respected by all.

Significant challenges remain in the peace process itself, including the continuing insecurity, the lack of cohesion among the armed movements, the refusal of Abdul Wahid to participate in the peace talks, and limited progress made towards the establishment of durable ceasefire arrangements and, of course, of a comprehensive agreement. In order to resume the negotiations, which were suspended during the elections period, the Joint Chief Mediator has invited all parties to Doha as of early June, and I would like to re-emphasize the need for all parties to remain engaged in the Doha peace talks. There is no alternative, in our view, to the peace talks if we are to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Darfur conflict sooner rather than later.

On my arrival in Darfur, the Mission's deployment strength had reached an overall average of about 70 per cent. I am pleased to report that deployment has since increased to about 87 per cent for the military and 74 per cent for the civilian and police components, respectively, and efforts are being made to increase these figures by the end of this year. Tactical helicopters provided by Ethiopia have arrived in-theatre and UNAMID is currently working with the Government of the Sudan on modalities and procedures for their use in both routine and emergency operations. Progress has also been made building up the

infrastructure needed to better enable the Mission to carry out its mandated activities.

These advances have enabled the Mission to increase the frequency and range of military and police patrols, which provide increased presence and protection throughout the region. However, while most of the remaining military and police personnel are scheduled to arrive in-theatre within the coming months, critical enabling units such as military utility helicopters and aerial surveillance units have not yet been pledged by anyone to the Mission. I seize this opportunity to appeal to those with the capabilities to please help us to build up these very essential assets. Without them, it will be difficult for the Mission to fulfil its full potential as envisaged in the founding Security Council resolutions.

In view of the achievement of these substantial levels of deployment, consensus has emerged that UNAMID should now begin to shift focus from deployment-related issues to mandate implementation. Accordingly, since taking up my assignment in January, I have outlined the following four priorities as my vision and goals for the mission.

First, we must enhance the security and safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel, as well as protection for the civilian population and internally displaced persons (IDPs). This will remain the core mandate of UNAMID.

Secondly, we must provide more proactive support for the ongoing peace process, because I believe very strongly that we should not just sit in El Fasher and wait for a peace agreement to be concluded that we will then have to implement. Rather, we should inject ourselves into the peace process and talk with all the parties — the armed elements, the Government of the Sudan, the Government of Qatar, which is acting as facilitator, and the Joint Chief Mediator himself — so that we can get a comprehensive peace agreement as soon as possible.

The third element of my vision is to facilitate the ongoing normalization of relations between Chad and the Sudan, because when those relations are good, we, as the people on the ground, are the beneficiaries. When relations are not good, of course we, and the people of West Darfur in particular, are the first victims.

The fourth element of my vision is to enhance and facilitate support for recovery, reconstruction and development in Darfur. In that regard, I would like to emphasize that we are not going to do recovery and development, but we are going to be at the forefront of encouraging those who have the capabilities and the mandate to do development.

I should also like to refer to the recently concluded elections in the Sudan, with specific reference to Darfur. Those elections have created new dynamics for the political process in Darfur. I welcome the fact that the polling took place in a peaceful and orderly manner throughout the three states of Darfur, in spite of strong opposition voiced by the armed movements prior to the polling period. Despite certain flaws registered by the international observer missions, the fact of the matter is that we now three new Governors, 144 members of the three state assemblies in Darfur, and 72 representatives of Darfur in the National Assembly. It is therefore important and necessary in our view to factor this reality into the peace process in view of the fact that these are elected Darfurians. We also have to extend our efforts to cover such important stakeholders as IDPs and refugees, whose views of the peace process may not have been sufficiently reflected in the electoral process.

In this connection, I wish to note that the recent strategic review meeting of the African Union and the United Nations, as well as the consultative meeting between the two organizations and international partners engaged on Sudanese issues, held on 7 and 8 May in Addis Ababa, recognized and stressed the need for the Darfur political process to be "inclusive and to address all issues of concern to the people of Darfur, including peace and security, land issues, social and economic issues, justice and reconciliation". The participants agreed that the peace process in Doha should continue and that, building on the progress achieved in Doha, UNAMID should initiate and lead a complementary political process on the ground in Darfur — a kind of a home-grown process — to ensure the systematic and sustained engagement of all Darfurian stakeholders. Accordingly, UNAMID has begun to develop strategies and put in place mechanisms to systematically engage newly elected officials, IDPs, refugees, Arab tribes, traditional leaders and the native administration and, especially, women, young people and all other representatives of civil society on all issues relevant to peace and security and stability in Darfur. The goal is to reassure them of their ability to have input in the peace process and aid them in articulating their

concerns. We are doing this in the strong belief that it will contribute in no small measure to public acceptance and ownership of the outcome of the peace process, thereby making it sustainable.

There are indications that the recent rapprochement between the Governments of Chad and Sudan, a development the Joint Chief Mediator and I have been working hard to support, is holding and has actually been strengthened. Efforts at facilitating and enhancing the implementation of the commitment made by both countries in pursuit of the agreed goals of their recent rapprochement are also continuing. I recently returned from a mission to N'Djamena, where I met President Deby with a view to facilitating and encouraging his commitment to the obligations undertaken by both countries on normalizing relations following the 15 January 2010 agreement between them.

In this context, I am pleased to report to the Council that during the reporting period, the Mission has not recorded any report of military activity or cross-border attacks. In line with their agreement, both countries have set up a joint border monitoring force comprising 1,500 soldiers from each country, a total of 3,000, formed to enhance cross-border security. The headquarters of the joint force is El Geneina, Western Darfur. I am also pleased to add that on 10 April 2010, the major border crossing point between the two countries, close to El Geneina in Western Darfur, reopened for transit and commercial activities, as many Chadian registered commercial vehicles have been spotted going across that border.

Let me briefly turn to the issue of the return of IDPs and refugees to their homes in a voluntary, appropriate and dignified manner. It is my firm conviction that the nexus between peace, security and development cannot be overemphasized when we contemplate the complex challenge of resolving the Darfur conflict in a sustainable and effective manner. The retention of an estimated 2.3 million inhabitants in IDP camps in Darfur constitutes a time bomb, as experiences elsewhere, such as in Lebanon and in Gaza, have demonstrated. One cannot permanently keep over 2 million people in IDP camps without experiencing some radicalization of the population and some extremism.

In order to avoid such negative trends, a programme for the voluntary and sustainable return of IDPs and refugees to their homes or to areas close to the camps must be vigorously pursued. The primary responsibility for this, of course, rests with the Government of Sudan, which must allocate significant financial and other resources for the recovery and development of Darfur. However, the Government of Sudan cannot accomplish this goal alone and it should not be left alone to do it.

Beyond the needs of those in the IDP camps, other Darfurians must also see benefits from the dividends of peace. Hence, there is a need to support appropriate early recovery, reconstruction and development projects and encourage the provision of basic services and economic revitalization and livelihoods. To that end, UNAMID has intensified its cooperation with the United Nations country team. Last Sunday, on 16 May, I had the honour to co-chair, together with Mr. Georg Charpentier, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, a meeting in El Fasher of the United Nations country team and UNAMID during which we discussed cooperation and coordination among all actors involved in this regard.

Furthermore, UNAMID has started to increase its presence in the rural areas of Darfur, in particular in areas of potential returns, so as to contribute to enhancing security and safety there. We are also looking into ways to use our available assets, such as military engineering and logistics units, to assist the Government of Sudan in the rehabilitation of the rail network in Darfur and in the development of water sources throughout Darfur.

On this note, I welcome and commend the efforts of all donors, both traditional and new, in supporting the needs of the people in Darfur. Recently, at the international donors conference for Darfur which took place in Cairo on 21 March, co-chaired by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Egypt and Turkey, pledges of over $850 million were made, and several projects, including model villages and housing for IDPs who may prefer to relocate to areas contiguous to or near urban areas and water resources, were unveiled. In addition, the Government of Qatar has pledged seed money of up to $1 billion towards setting up a Darfur recovery fund.

I wish to note that during the meetings between the African Union and the United Nations and international partners, to which I referred earlier and

which took place on 7 and 8 May in Addis Ababa, participants stressed the importance of promoting early recovery and reconstruction efforts in Darfur and welcomed UNAMID's active advocacy for and appropriate engagement in this matter. It is my hope that the Security Council will encourage such positive gestures and facilitate similar efforts by the United Nations family towards sustainable stabilization of the situation in Darfur.

I would like to close by making an overall assessment of the situation in Darfur and of UNAMID's performance during the reporting period. I am of the view that, despite our best efforts, results have been mixed. In the areas of security and the protection of the civilian population, some progress has indeed been made, but pockets of instability remain. The peace process, which I have been proactively supporting under the leadership of the Joint Mediation Team, has progressed, but a deep sense of mistrust between the parties remains, and some parties are not engaging in the process.

UNAMID is nearing full deployment, which is a positive development, thus enabling personnel now to focus more on the implementation of the mandate. In other words, they are moving from deployment to employment. But we still lack critical enabling units.

Despite these challenges, however, UNAMID is working at all levels and on a range of fronts to promote peace and stability in Darfur. The challenges confronting the Mission are considerable, but my colleagues and I remain determined to see that progress is made in stabilizing the security situation in Darfur and ending this conflict which has brought untold sorrow to the peoples of Darfur.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Mr. Gambari for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.